

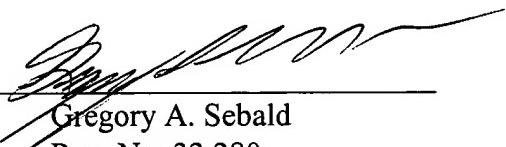
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 336.4728.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: June 25, 2001

By 

Gregory A. Sebald
Reg. No. 33,280

GAS/jlc

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the second temporary layer of step (a) is made of a polymer or made of glass.
13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the polymer is polyimide.
- 5 14. A method according to claim 4, wherein the fifth planarization layer of step (i) is made of a polymer or made of glass.
- 10 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the polymer is polyimide.
16. A method according to claim 4, wherein the sixth layer of step (ii) is made of a material selected from the group including SiO₂, Si₃N₄, Ti, Al, V, Au and Si.
- 15 17. A method according to claim 4, wherein the depositing of step (ii) is performed by means of a technique selected from the group including sputtering technique, resistive evaporation technique and electroplating technique.
- 20 18. A method according to claim 4, wherein the etching of step (iii) is performed by means of a reactive ion etching technique or a wet etching technique.
- 25 19. A suspended microstructure with a sloped support produced by the method of anyone of the claims 1 to 18. -- claim 1 --